



ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY ORGANIZATION

## PROJECT NOTIFICATION

14 August 2015

- 1. Project Code** 15-AG-04-GE-TRC-B
- 2. Title** e-Learning Course on Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for Greater Market Access
- 3. Timing and Duration**  
Session 1: 13–15 October 2015  
Session 2: 4–6 November 2015
- 4. Venues**  
Session 1: Bangladesh, India, IR Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka  
Session 2: Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam
- 5. Implementing Organizations**  
APO Secretariat and the following NPOs:  
  
Session 1:  
Bangladesh: National Productivity Organisation  
India: National Productivity Council  
IR Iran: National Iranian Productivity Organization  
Mongolia: Mongolian Productivity Organization  
Nepal: National Productivity and Economic Development Centre  
Pakistan: National Productivity Organization  
Sri Lanka: National productivity Secretariat  
  
Session 2:  
Cambodia: National Productivity Centre of Cambodia  
Philippines: Development Academy of the Philippines  
Thailand: Thailand Productivity Institute  
Vietnam: Vietnam National Productivity Institute
- 6. Number of Participants** At least 20 qualified participants from each participating country
- 7. Closing Date for Nominations**  
Session 1: 11 September 2015  
Session 2: 2 October 2015
- 8. Objectives**
  - a. To enhance participants' understanding of the benefits and importance of GAP for increasing access of agrifood products to international markets;
  - b. To familiarize participants with the GAP concept, adoption process, and certification methodology; and

- c. To review the status of and procedures for benchmarking of national GAP with other internationally recognized GAP standards.

## **9. Background**

With international trade in food booming, consumers are increasingly concerned about food safety and how food is produced and how it is handled within supply chains. New pressures from consumers, retailers, and legislation have placed additional demands on farmers and producers. They are increasingly required to use production methods that reduce the impact of agricultural practices on the environment, reduce their use of agrochemicals, and make efficient use of natural resources (land and water), while safeguarding the welfare of workers and farm animals. GAP could be the solution for producers seeking to address consumer concerns in domestic and foreign markets.

The GAP concept addresses two distinct issues: ensuring food safety during on-farm and post-production processes to build consumer confidence in the products; and enhancing environmental sustainability for continued productive farm operations. The development and adoption of GAP have become increasingly important in light of increasing regional and international trade in food products and growing consciousness of consumers of the quality and safety of the food products they buy. Agricultural producers, particularly small farmers, need to have their farms certified as GAP compliant to enhance the acceptability of their products.

Several countries have developed their own GAP standards and certification systems. However, the lack of harmonization between GAP schemes among countries and scarcity of affordable certification systems have often led to increased confusion and higher certification costs for farmers and exporters. The GLOBALGAP standard now serves as key reference for GAP worldwide as this is increasingly being recognized internationally by retailers. It is a single, integrated standard with modular applications for different product groups, ranging from plants, livestock, and aquaculture to plant propagation materials and compound animal feed.

An understanding of the principles and standards of GAP and benchmarking of national GAP against GLOBALGAP are essential so that stakeholders in various APO member countries can improve agricultural practices, facilitate exports, and reduce the cost of multiple audits by meeting established GAP standards.

This e-learning course is designed to address these needs of various stakeholders with emphasis on Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for Greater Market Access in APO member countries.

## **10. Modality of Implementation**

This course is offered using the APO's own videoconferencing platform. Appropriate videoconferencing centers in participating countries will be used for this purpose. International experts will conduct the training course. The course will be implemented in two sessions as described above. Each participating country team will make videoconferencing presentations to share their experience in GAP/GLOBALGAP, which will be moderated by a local coordinator. On the last day, a written examination will be conducted to test the participants' learning from the course. Performance in the examination will be one of the criteria for selection of the participants for the subsequent follow-up face-to-face training course.

## 11. Scope and Methodology

The tentative modules to be covered are:

- a. General concepts and basic requirements of GAP systems;
- b. Scope and trends in implementation of GAP in Cambodia;
- c. GAP and GLOBALGAP and their importance in the global trade in agrifood products;
- d. Issues and challenges in GAP adoption;
- e. Support systems for the dissemination and sustainability of GAP implementation;
- f. Benchmarking national GAP schemes against GLOBALGAP; and
- g. GLOBALGAP implementation, certification, and key success factors.

This distance-learning course will consist of a combination of videoconferencing and offline sessions such as online lectures, online discussions, online presentations of country case studies, offline group exercises, and written examination.

The tentative program of the training course is given below:

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Activity</b>   |
|-------------|---|
| Day 1:      | Opening session through videoconferencing;<br>Presentation of resource papers through videoconferencing; and<br>Group exercise/individual assignments offline                                   |
| Day 2:      | Presentation of resource papers through videoconferencing; and<br>Group exercise/individual assignments offline   |
| Day 3:      | Presentation of group exercise output by participating countries through<br>videoconferencing;<br>Summing-up and closing sessions through videoconferencing; and<br>Written examination offline |

## 12. Qualifications of Candidates

The participants are expected to possess the following qualifications:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Present Position | Government officers, managers of farms/firms, academics, professional staff of quality assurance/certification bodies, or consultants involved in planning, development, implementation, and promotion of GAP and GLOBALGAP. |
| Experience       | At least two years of experience in the position described above.  |
| Education        | University degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized university/institution.  |
| Language         | All proceedings of the project are conducted in English. Proficiency in spoken and written English is essential.   |
| Age              | Those meeting the above qualifications are generally between 25 and 45 years of age.   |

APO Certificate      Participants are required to attend the entire program to receive the APO certificate of attendance.

### **13. Financial Arrangements**

#### **To be borne by the APO**

- a. All assignment costs for resource speakers to prepare presentation materials and deliver presentations.
- b. Rental and other charges of the videoconferencing centers in participating countries, resource persons' countries, and Japan.
- c. Honorarium for a local coordinator in each participating country.

#### **To be borne by participating countries**

- a. Any other local implementing costs not covered by the APO.

### **14. Actions by Participating Member Countries**

- a. The NPO of each participating country is requested to nominate more than 20 participants and submit a list in the format to be provided by the Secretariat later. Please adhere to the nomination deadlines specified under section 7 of this document and ensure that candidates nominated meet the qualifications prescribed under section 12.
- b. Each NPO will identify an appropriate local coordinator. The coordinator will moderate all technical sessions and group exercises/individual assignments in consultation with the NPO and chief resource person identified by the APO. The group exercises will include experience sharing, views of participants on GAP/GLOBALGAP, and review of online sessions. The coordinator will also make all necessary arrangements with the local videoconferencing centers prior to the commencement of the training course to ensure that the facility is ready for the training sessions.



Mari Amano  
Secretary-General